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HOUSE RESOLUTION 206
By Towns

A RESOLUTION to designate February 7, 2002 as "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, February 7, 2002 will be the second annual observance of "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day"; and

WHEREAS, this important observance is a nationwide community mobilization effort to emphasize the HIV/AIDS "State of Emergency" among African Americans and to encourage individuals to be tested for HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a project of the Community Capacity Building Coalition, a coalition of national organizations funded by the Centers for Disease Control through the National Minority AIDS Initiative to provide capacity building assistance to community-based organizations and stakeholders involved in HIV/AIDS prevention; and

WHEREAS, national organizations partnering with CCBC for this exemplary event include the CDC, the NAACP, the Health Resources and Health Services Administration, the

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Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, the Office of the Surgeon General and others; and

WHEREAS, as of September, 2001, 5,122 Shelby County residents are living with HIV, 81% of these HIV victims are African American men and women; and

WHEREAS, from January 1, 2001 to September 30, 2001, 419 new cases of HIV infections were reported, and in Shelby County 85% of these cases were African American men and women; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Committee, in partnership with the Memphis Chapter of the NAACP and the State of Tennessee Minority Initiatives Project, is hosting a week of community events to recognize this day and its importance to African Americans; and

WHEREAS, local sponsors also include LeMoyne-Owen College, the Community Development Corporation, the South Memphis Alliance, the Memphis/Shelby County Health Department, the Friends For Life AIDS Resource Center, Brothers United of Memphis, Club N-Cognito Memphis, the National Bank of Commerce LeMoyne-Owen Branch, the New Salem Missionary Baptist Church 4th Street, the African American Pastors Consortium, Inc.; and Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood, New Directions, Inc., St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Memphis HIV Testing Coalition, the SW Regional Minority Health Coalition, Alpha Epsilon Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Agouron Pharmaceutical, Inc,

WHEREAS, the schedule of events for this very informative week includes: an invocation at the New Salem Baptist Church, free HIV testing and counseling from the Shelby County Health Department, free testing from the Memphis HIV Testing Coalition, an "Open Mic Night" of poetry reading and an HIV Education Presentation at the Precious Cargo Talk and Coffee Shop, HIV Awareness discussions at local high schools, various activities at the Hope House Day Care Center, and a "Town Hall Meeting" in the Little Theatre at LeMoyne-Owen College; and

WHEREAS, the keynote speaker will be 103.5 Soul Classics radio personality “Mother Wit” who will also serve as moderator of the Forum; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to express our strong support for this event; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we designate February 7, 2002 as “National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day” in Tennessee, and urge Tennesseans to strongly support this week of events.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.